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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 000128

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/06/2019 TAGS: <u>MARR MOPS NATO PREL IZ EZ</u>

SUBJECT: CZECH REPUBLIC: RESPONSE TO DEMARCHES ON IRAQ

Classified By: Deputy Political/Economic Counselor Martina A. Strong for reasons 1.4 (b) & (d).

(C) Political officer delivered the reftel demarches on March 3 to Veronika Kuchynova-Smigolova, the Czech MFA's Director for Security Policy, and her deputy, Petr Chalupecky. They both appreciated receiving the points and were well-aware of our Iraq policy review from media reports. On the specific issue of renewed Czech participation in NTM-I, they said that the lack of support for the Iraq training mission in the Czech parliament will not allow them to renew their involvement. However, the MFA is willing to re-examine the issue in the future if the political situation changes. Thompson-Jones